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BALTIMORE AREA WORKPLACE FATALITIES, 1999

The number of fatal workplace injuries in the Washington-Baltimore Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) was 113 in 1999, up 13 over the year, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Alan M. Paisner, the Bureau's regional commissioner, noted that, while the Washington-Baltimore area's fatality total rose 13 percent from the previous year, the total number of deaths was about the same in the Baltimore PMSA and fell 29 percent in Baltimore City. (See table A.)

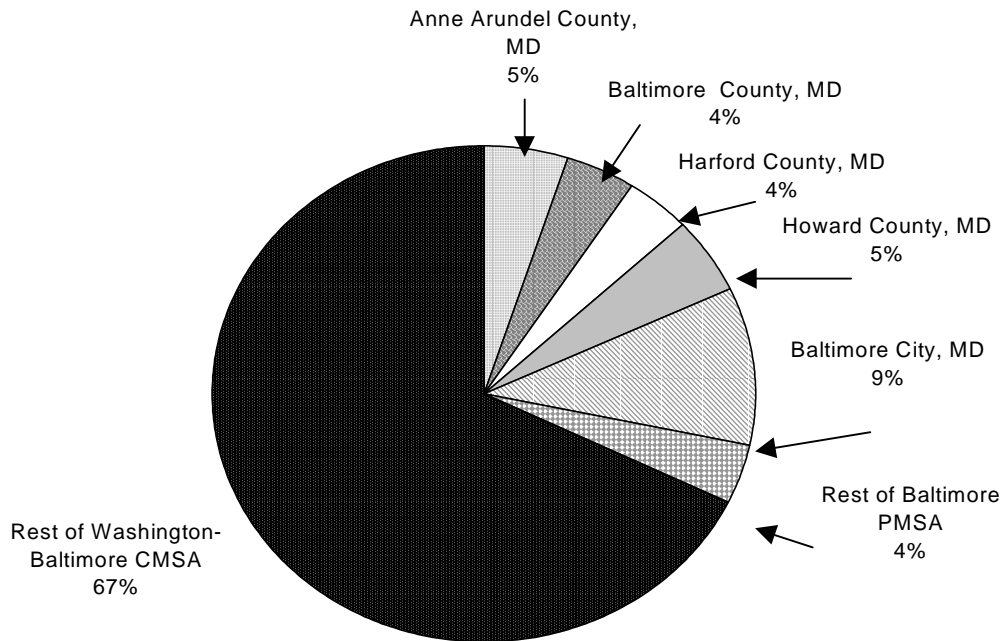
Table A. Fatal occupational injuries for selected events, Washington-Baltimore CMSA, Baltimore PMSA, and Baltimore City, 1993-99

Year	Total fatalities	Transportation related		Homicides	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Washington-Baltimore CMSA					
1993	122	41	34	35	29
1994	112	33	29	32	29
1995	117	34	29	40	34
1996	118	42	36	30	25
1997	119	27	23	27	23
1998	100	41	41	21	21
1999	113	47	42	22	19
Baltimore PMSA					
1993	36	10	28	6	17
1994	35	12	34	6	17
1995	38	11	29	14	37
1996	37	10	27	15	41
1997	44	13	30	14	32
1998	36	19	53	7	19
1999	37	15	41	8	22
Baltimore City					
1993	13	--	--	3	23
1994	9	3	33	3	33
1995	16	--	--	11	69
1996	19	--	--	11	58
1997	15	--	--	9	60
1998	14	--	--	7	50
1999	10	--	--	5	50

NOTE: Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Transportation-related incidents, primarily highway-related incidents, were the leading cause of workplace fatalities in the CMSA in 1999 with 47 deaths or 42 percent of the total. Assaults and violent acts were second with 27 job-related fatalities; homicides made up the majority of deaths in this category accounting for 22. About a third of the work-related fatalities in the CMSA occurred in the Baltimore Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA); less than one-tenth occurred in the city of Baltimore. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Chart 1. Distribution of workplace fatalities by county of occurrence, Washington-Baltimore CMSA, 1999



Nationwide, the number of fatal work injuries was 6,023, nearly the same as the previous year's total despite an increase in employment. On a detailed level, highway incidents continued as the leading cause of on-the-job fatalities during 1999, accounting for one-fourth of the fatal work injury total. Decreases in job-related deaths from homicides and electrocutions in 1999 were offset by increases from workers struck by falling objects or caught in running machinery. (See table B.)

Summary data show that transportation incidents, which includes highway, nonhighway, pedestrian, air, water and rail fatalities, accounted for 43 percent of all fatal occupational injuries nationwide. Contact with objects and equipment, which includes struck by an object, caught in equipment and crushed in collapsing materials, made up 17 percent of on-the-job deaths while assaults and violent acts, which includes homicides and suicides, accounted for 15 percent. On average, about 17 workers were fatally injured each day in the United States during 1999.

Table B. Fatal occupational injuries for selected events, United States, 1993-99

Year	Total fatalities	Transportation related		Homicides	
		Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
1993	6,331	2,499	39	1,074	17
1994	6,632	2,762	42	1,080	16
1995	6,275	2,587	41	1,036	17
1996	6,202	2,601	42	927	15
1997	6,238	2,605	42	860	14
1998 ¹	6,055	2,645	44	714	12
1999	6,023	2,613	43	645	11

¹The BLS national news release issued August 4, 1999, reported a total of 6,026 fatal work injuries for calendar year 1998. Since then, an additional 29 job-related fatalities were identified, bringing the total job-related fatality count for 1998 to 6,055.

This release presents the results from the 1999 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), a Federal/State cooperative program in which all 50 states and the District of Columbia participate. The program provides workplace fatality data by occupational, industrial, and demographic characteristics as well as type of event.

Key elements of the results for the Washington-Baltimore area follow:

Washington-Baltimore CMSA:

- Highway incidents accounted for one-fourth of the fatalities, while homicides accounted for almost one-fifth. (See Table 1.)
- Eighty-eight percent of those killed were men and 12 percent were women. (See table 2.)
- Sixty percent of those fatally injured were white, 29 percent were black, and 8 percent were Asian.
- Workers aged 25-54--the prime working age group--experienced 70 percent of the fatalities in 1999 in the CMSA.
- Nearly three-quarters of the workers killed on the job worked for wages and salaries; the remainder were self-employed.
- Workers in the construction industry accounted for 36 or almost one-third of the CMSA fatalities; transportation-related incidents were responsible for 16 of these deaths, half due to pedestrian incidents, while 12 others were due to fatal falls.
- One-fifth of area fatalities occurred in transportation and public utilities accounting for 23 deaths of which 14 were due to highway incidents and 4 were homicides. (See table 3.)
- All six of the fatalities in grocery stores were homicides.
- Two occupational groups accounted for over one-third of all workplace deaths -- motor vehicle operators and construction laborers, with 24 and 15 fatalities, respectively. (See table 4.)
- Robbery was the primary motive of job-related homicides when a reason could be ascertained accounting for half of the alleged perpetrators. Six or almost half of the 13 work-related fatalities among women in the CMSA were homicides.

Baltimore PMSA:

- The leading causes of the 37 work-related deaths in the Baltimore PMSA were highway incidents and homicides with ten and eight fatalities, respectively.
- Thirty percent of those who died in the PMSA worked in the construction industry while 24 percent worked in transportation and public utilities.
- Motor vehicle operators accounted for almost one-fourth of the work-related deaths in the PMSA with nine fatalities.

Baltimore City:

- Homicides accounted for half of the workers (5) who died on the job in Baltimore City.
- The occupational grouping of operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for half (5) of the total fatalities.

The CFOI program is designed to provide the safety and health community with verified counts of fatal work injuries as well as basic information on fatalities that can be used to help prevent future fatalities in the workplace.

TECHNICAL NOTES

The source for data in the tables is the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1999; and the District of Columbia Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Virginia Department of Labor and Industry; and West Virginia Department of Labor.

Information on fatal occupational injuries were compiled from a variety of administrative sources including death certificates, motor vehicle traffic accident reports, medical examiners reports, State and Federal workers' compensation reports, and other government investigative reports. Each fatality was substantiated by either two independent source documents or one source document and a follow-up questionnaire to the employer or other contact (excluding next-of-kin) who had knowledge about the circumstances of the incident.

While the purpose of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries is to compile a complete count of traumatic workplace fatalities, information was also collected on fatal occupational illnesses that were recognized as work-related or that occurred at work. (There is not necessarily a causal relationship implied for illness deaths occurring at work.) A comprehensive count of fatalities resulting from occupational illnesses cannot be produced from current data largely because of the latency period associated with many occupational illnesses, as well as the difficulty in associating illnesses with exposures in the workplace. Therefore, fatal occupational illnesses are excluded from the tables.

The Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V., CMSA consists of the Baltimore, Md., PMSA; the Hagerstown, Md., PMSA; and the Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V., PMSA. The Baltimore, Md., PMSA is composed of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties and Baltimore City in Maryland. The Hagerstown, Md., PMSA consists of Washington County in Maryland. The Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V., PMSA consists of the District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; and Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia.

Table 1. Fatal occupational injuries by event or exposure, Washington-Baltimore area, 1999

Event or exposure ¹	Washington-Baltimore CMSA		Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	113	100	37	100	10	100
Contact with objects and equipment	12	11	4	11	--	--
Struck by object.....	4	4	--	--	--	--
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.....	6	5	--	--	--	--
Caught in running equipment or machinery	3	3	--	--	--	--
Falls	18	16	6	16	--	--
Fall to lower level.....	16	14	4	11	--	--
Fall from floor, dock, or ground level.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Fall from roof.....	5	4	--	--	--	--
Exposure to harmful substances or environments.....	6	5	--	--	--	--
Exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances	4	4	--	--	--	--
Transportation incidents.....	47	42	15	41	--	--
Highway.....	28	25	10	27	--	--
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	10	9	3	8	--	--
Vehicle struck stationary object, equipment on side of road...	11	10	4	11	--	--
Noncollision.....	5	4	--	--	--	--
Nonhighway (farm, industrial premises)	7	6	--	--	--	--
Vehicle, mobile equipment struck stationary object	3	3	--	--	--	--
Noncollision.....	4	4	--	--	--	--
Worker struck by vehicle.....	11	10	--	--	--	--
Worker struck by vehicle in roadway.....	5	4	--	--	--	--
Worker struck by vehicle in parking lot or non-roadway.	4	4	--	--	--	--
Fires and explosions.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Fire -- unintended or uncontrolled	3	3	--	--	--	--
Fire in residence, building, or other structure.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Assaults and violent acts	27	24	10	27	6	60
Homicides.....	22	19	8	22	5	50
Shootings	16	14	6	16	3	30
Stabbings	3	3	--	--	--	--
Suicides	4	4	--	--	--	--

¹Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries by selected demographic characteristics, Washington-Baltimore area, 1999

Characteristic	Washington-Baltimore CMSA		Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	113	100	37	100	10	100
<u>Employee status</u>						
Wage and salary workers.....	84	74	30	81	--	--
Self-employed ¹	29	26	7	19	--	--
<u>Sex and age</u>						
Men	100	88	30	81	--	--
Women	13	12	7	19	--	--
Both sexes:						
Under 25 years.....	13	12	--	--	--	--
25 to 34 years.....	27	24	6	16	3	30
35 to 44 years.....	25	22	14	38	6	60
45 to 54 years.....	27	24	9	24	--	--
55 to 64 years.....	16	14	5	14	--	--
65 years and over.....	5	4	--	--	--	--
<u>Race and Hispanic origin</u>						
White	68	60	27	73	3	30
Black.....	33	29	7	19	5	50
Asian	9	8	3	8	--	--
Multiple races	3	3	--	--	--	--
Hispanic origin	9	8	--	--	--	--

¹Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated businesses, or members of partnerships.
(See note at end of tables.)

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by industry, Washington-Baltimore area, 1999

Industry	SIC code ¹	Washington-Baltimore CMSA		Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....		113	100	37	100	10	100
Private sector		102	90	32	86	9	90
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing		10	9	--	--	--	--
Agricultural services	07	7	6	--	--	--	--
Landscape and horticultural services	078	5	4	--	--	--	--
Construction		36	32	11	30	3	30
Heavy construction, except building	16	8	7	3	8	--	--
Highway and street construction	161	5	4	--	--	--	--
Heavy construction, except highway	162	3	3	--	--	--	--
Special trade contractors	17	23	20	7	19	3	30
Masonry, stonework, and plastering	174	3	3	--	--	--	--
Carpentry and floor work ..	175	5	4	--	--	--	--
Roofing, siding, and sheet metal work	176	3	3	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous special trade contractors	179	7	6	4	11	--	--
Transportation and public utilities		23	20	9	24	--	--
Local and interurban passenger transit	41	5	4	3	8	--	--
Taxicabs	412	3	3	--	--	--	--
Trucking and warehousing	42	15	13	5	14	--	--
Trucking and courier services, except air	421	15	13	5	14	--	--
Wholesale trade		7	6	3	8	--	--
Wholesale trade, durable goods ..	50	3	3	--	--	--	--
Wholesale trade, nondurable goods	51	4	4	--	--	--	--
Retail trade		14	12	6	16	--	--
Food stores	54	6	5	4	11	--	--
Grocery stores	541	6	5	4	11	--	--
Eating and drinking places	58	3	3	--	--	--	--
Services		8	7	3	8	--	--
Auto repair, services, and parking	75	4	4	--	--	--	--
Automotive services, except repair	754	3	3	--	--	--	--
Government ²		11	10	5	14	--	--
Federal		4	4	--	--	--	--
State		3	3	--	--	--	--
Local		4	4	--	--	--	--

¹Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987 Edition.²Includes fatalities to workers employed by governmental organizations regardless of industry. (See note at end of tables.)

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries by occupation, Washington-Baltimore area, 1999

Occupation ¹	Washington-Baltimore CMSA		Baltimore PMSA		Baltimore City	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total fatalities:.....	113	100	37	100	10	100
Managerial and professional specialty	9	8	3	8	--	--
Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations.....	7	6	3	8	--	--
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	11	10	3	8	--	--
Sales occupations.....	5	4	--	--	--	--
Sales workers, retail and personal services.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	4	4	--	--	--	--
Mail and message distributing occupations.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Service occupations.....	8	7	--	--	--	--
Protective service occupations ...	6	5	--	--	--	--
Firefighting and fire prevention	3	3	--	--	--	--
Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.....	9	8	--	--	--	--
Other agricultural and related occupations.....	7	6	--	--	--	--
Related agricultural occupations.....	6	5	--	--	--	--
Precision production, craft, and repair	21	19	9	24	--	--
Mechanics and repairers.....	7	6	4	11	--	--
Mechanics and repairers, except supervisors.....	6	5	4	11	--	--
Construction trades.....	12	11	5	14	--	--
Construction trades, except supervisors.....	10	9	4	11	--	--
Operators, fabricators, and laborers	54	48	21	57	5	50
Transportation and material moving operations	27	24	10	27	--	--
Motor vehicle operators.....	24	21	9	24	--	--
Material moving equipment operators.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	25	22	10	27	3	30
Construction laborers.....	15	13	4	11	--	--
Freight, stock, and material handlers.....	3	3	--	--	--	--
Vehicle washers and equipment cleaners.....	3	3	--	--	--	--

¹Based on the 1990 Occupational Classification System developed by the Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding. Categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.